

## A B S T R A C T

5 The invention relates to a picture coding method for  
transmission on a channel at a low bit rate and with a  
high error rate, typically a channel with a bit rate less  
than 100 kbit/s and an error rate greater than  $10^{-6}$ , or  
even  $10^{-4}$ . The method uses motion estimation coding and  
divides the picture into a plurality of segments made up  
of macroblocks. According to the invention, at least for  
10 an edge macroblock of a segment, a motion estimation  
vector is allowed to extend into an adjacent segment.  
This is particularly advantageous for macroblocks  
situated top right of the segment if scanning for motion  
vector estimation is from left to right and top to  
15 bottom. This solution avoids errors caused by estimating  
motion vectors within segments and limits the propagation  
of coding errors caused by splitting the picture into  
segments.

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